SOME

ACCOUNT

Of the TRYALS of the

FIVE Notorious

JESUITS, Popiſh Prieſts,

And TRAYTORS,

VIZ.

Thomas White alias *Whitebread*, *William Harcourt*, *John Fenwick*, *John Gavern* alias *Gawen*, and *Anthony Turner*;

Found guilty of HIGH-TREASON for conſpiring to Murther the KING, ſubvert the Government, root out the Proteſtant Religion, and eſtabliſh Popery, *&c.*

On a fair Tryal by virtue of a Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer* at the *Old Baily*, *June* 13. 1679.

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YALE

Some Account of the Tryals of the Five notorious Jeſuits, Popiſh Prieſts, and Traytors, *June* 13. 1679.

AFter the Commiſſion read, and the Juries Impannelled, and their appearances recorded, ſix Priſoners were Arraigned, *viz. Tho. White, alias Whitebread*, apprehended on the firſt diſcovery of the Plot; a little lean very old man, in mean gray cloaths, who was Provincial of the *Engliſh* Jeſuites, and ſhould have been, had their curſed deſign hit, Biſhop of *Canterbury*. *William Harcourt*, taken not above five weeks ago near *Long-Acre*, an antient Tall man in black Habit, with a Perriwig; a perſon though no good Orator, yet very politick, and often mentioned in *Colemans* Tryal and Letters, as a grand inſtrument of miſchief. *John Fenwick*, a middle-aged man, ſomewhat genteely dreſſed, in a lightiſh Wig, and gray Campaigne Coat. *John Gavern alias Gawen*, a ſhort well-ſet man, in gray Cloaths, and looking very plain and ordinary as a Country-man, but in truth a perſon of exqniſite parts and Oratory, who manag'd almoſt the whole defence on the behalf of his fellow priſoners, with a great deal of briskneſs, ſubtilty, and fine Language. *Anthony Turner*, a perſon in mean habit, and ſhort Perriwig, one that ſaid little for himſelf. And *James Cocker*, who preſenting a Petition, alleadging, that he had not his Witneſſes ready, was put off as to his Tryal till next day, ſo that the Court at preſent proceeded only with the five firſt named.

Their Tryal was very tedious, laſting from before nine a clock in the morning, to ſeven or eight in the evening. The particulars whereof we do not here pretend fully and exactly to relate, as well, becauſe 'tis not to be done in a ſingle

ſheet, as eſpecially for that we are aſſured, there will ſhortly by the ſpecial care of Authority, be a compleat and punctual Account thereof publiſhed, to which we refer the more curious Reader; onely deſigning here to give a brief Narrative of the moſt obſervable points for the preſent ſatisfaction of the common people, that they may know what Juſtice was done them, and what in general was proved upon them.

They were all five charged in one Indictment ſpecially drawn, for High-Treaſon, and that aggravated with all the moſt horrid Circumſtances imaginable. Firſt, that they conſpired to kill and deſtroy His Sacred Majeſty, and this declared in a three-fold overt Act, by hiring *Grove* and *Pickering* (the firſt for fifteen hundred pounds, the ſecond for thirty thouſand Maſſes to ſhoot or ſtab him,) by hiring four Iriſh Ruffians to Murther His Majeſty at *Windſor*, by bribing *Wakeman* for Fifteen thouſand pounds to Poyſon Him. Secondly, to Subvert the Government, extirpate the Proteſtant Religion, and introduce Popery, *&c.* —— Their Jury were very ſubſtantial Gentlemen, and they made peremptory Challenges to all that had been on the Tryals of *Coleman*, or any others concern'd in this Plot.

Old Father *Whitebread* and *Fenwick*, on their Arraignment inſiſted, that they had formerly been brought to Tryal, and ought not to be twice put in Jeopardy of their Lives for the ſame Fact; but this vain pretence was refuted by ſhewing, that though they were once call'd to the Bar, yet the Jury was never charged with them, and conſequently they were never in any ſuch Jeopardy; beſides, here was much new matter in this Indictment: nor had they any Record to ſhew that they were ſo formerly arraigned. With which ſeeming to be ſatisfied, they (with the reſt) pleaded Not guilty.

As

As to their traitorous deſigne of murthering the King, it was proved upon four of them, That at a general Conſult of Jeſuits, *April* 24. 1678, they ſigned a Reſolution to that purpoſe, That *Grove* and *Pickering* were entertain'd to kill the King, and what Reward they were to have. That four Iriſh men were to do the ſame villanous act at *Windſor*, and that Fourſcore pounds were allotted them for that ſervice, and ſome ſmall addition made by *Coleman* for expedition. That *Whitebread* and *Harcourt* were particularly and principally concerned in theſe Tranſactions, with ſeveral other Intrigues too tedious here to have been ſpecified.

It was further proved, that *Gavern* had been appointed to manage Affairs in and about *Staffordſhire*; and one of the Evidence (who had not before appeared againſt any others, nor was acquainted formerly with Dr. *O.* or Mr. *B.* ſo that his Teſtimony was new; which he very modeſtly and judiciouſly delivered,) proved, That the ſaid Priſoner had held Conſultations in the Country for Murthering the King and Subverting the Government, *&c.* which was likewiſe confirm'd by another. So that upon the whole matter there were four Witneſſes againſt one of the Priſoners, three againſt another, and againſt all of them two to each Crime, being all of the ſame nature and horrid intention of deſtroying the King and ſubverting the Government.

There

There was likewiſe a Letter produced, and proved by a very worthy Gentleman to have been taken amongſt *Harcourts* Papers, that purported to be a Summons to a Jeſuite to appear at the ſaid Conſult or Congregation of that Society, on the 24th of *April*, in which were directions to this effect, *That they ſhould not come up before the day, nor appear much abroad in Town, for fear of a diſcovery of the Deſign, which in its own nature required ſecrecy.* This Letter the ſaid *Harcourt* owned to have been written by a friend of his, but would have avoided the true meaning thereof, with a forced Interpretation, that ſuch *Deſign* intended nothing but chooſing an Officer of their Brotherhood. But the words could not with any tolerable ſenſe, be capable of any ſuch conſtruction, and therefore after all the fair gloſſes they had put upon it, the ſame was referred to the conſideration of the Jury.

The Priſoners made a great deal of ſtir, and had procured divers perſons from St. *Omers*, all Roman Catholicks, and moſt of them young Popiſh Students there, to invalidate the Evidence of one of the principle Evidence; but as they did not well agree in their Tale, but appeared to have been brought hither meerly to ſerve the Priſoners, ſo the ſame was utterly confuted by corroborating evidence for the King. For whereas thoſe young Sophiſters, (ready enough to aſſert any thing that their Superiours would ſuggeſt, or have them to do) maintained that Mr. *Oats* was at St. *Omers*, all along through-

throughout *April* and *May*, 1678. and ſo could not be at the Conſult on the 24th of *April*; he on the other ſide produced ſeveral ſubſtantial and credible Witneſſes, that ſaw him then, in and about *London*; and particularly one Gentleman ſwore, that on the firſt Munday in that *May*, he Dined with him: Nay one that was himſelf a Papiſt, and ſuppoſed a Prieſt, ſwore, that he then ſaw him at *Arundel* Houſe; nor were they more lucky in ſeveral other of their Allegations, which occaſioned ſometimes great ſhouts from the people, to ſee how induſtriouſly, and yet how vainly they went about to juſtifie themſelves with pretences, equally fooliſh and falſe.

Never had Malefactors a more fair and equal Tryal, nor any Court of Juſtice more patience to hear and examine all that the Priſoners could alleadge for themſelves. Nor was the method of proceeding leſs mild and gentle. For whereas they might all have been dealt withall, and juſtly Condemned for Treaſon as Prieſts, that was not inſiſted on, ſo moderate are Proteſtants againſt puniſhing any meerly for being Prieſts, though that be moſt reaſonably made Capital by our Laws. No cauſe have they therefore, or any of their Faction beyond the Seas, to complain of harſh uſage, or clamour about Perſecution; it was not for their Religion they were tryed, but for their abominable Treaſons, which were moſt evidently made out againſt them.

So

So that after a full hearing both of all the Witneſſes they could produce, (though all Romaniſts, who yet were impartially heard and received) and whatever they had to ſay for themſelves, (which rather conſiſted in flouriſhes, and little captious tricks of ſubtilty, than any ſolid defence to the matter they ſtood charged with,) they were all moſt juſtly, and to the great ſatisfaction of all unprejudiced Auditors, Convicted of the High Treaſon they were Indicted for.

FINIS.